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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 48/76 D, adopted without a vote on 16 December 1993, the General Assembly, inter alia, commended the Secretary-General for his efforts in disseminating as widely as possible information on arms limitation and disarmament and in carrying out an active seminar and conference programme, and requested him to submit to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report covering the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme by the United Nations system during 1994 and the activities of the Programme contemplated by the system for 1995.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request. Section II provides the background to the Disarmament Information Programme as well as the framework within which activities are being conceived and carried out. Section III outlines activities carried out by the Centre for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information since October 1993. Activities envisaged for 1995 are referred to where appropriate. Section IV deals with financial aspects of the Programme.

3. As regards activities envisaged for 1995, it should be noted that fewer elements of the Programme are contemplated than in previous years. The Programme operates under serious financial constraints owing to a steady decline in voluntary contributions by Member States.

II. BACKGROUND

4. The important function of disseminating information regarding arms limitation, disarmament and international security, which was recognized by the General Assembly in 1978 at its first special session devoted to disarmament, was formalized as a distinct information activity of the United Nations by the Assembly in 1982 at its second special session on disarmament. The programme aimed at informing, educating and generating public understanding and support for multilateral action in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, and focused on five major constituencies: elected representatives, research institutes, educational communities, non-governmental organizations and the media. As of 1992, the programme has been named the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme.

5. The Programme has adapted to the extraordinary changes in international affairs that have occurred over the last number of years. While retaining the same fundamental goals and basic structure, it has broadened its scope considerably, addressing a wide range of issues that the new political climate has given rise to, and, at the same time, developing means of exploring specific questions in depth. There appears to be a growing willingness on the part of Governments to discuss old and new problems of international security in a much more cooperative and non-confrontational manner.

6. In this connection, and within the framework of its mandate and across the spectrum of its activities, the Centre for Disarmament Affairs has given increasing attention to the most urgent issues of global concern in the field,

such as the question of non-proliferation in all its aspects, and to ways and means of promoting regional approaches to disarmament and confidence-building measures, including greater openness and transparency in military matters.

7. During the reporting period, the activities of the Programme have been carried out within the traditional four areas: regional activities, information and education activities, training activities and special events. In addition, the Department of Public Information, in accordance with its own mandate as well as in cooperation with the Centre for Disarmament Affairs, has continued to implement a number of activities in support of the work of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN 1994 AND PROGRAMME OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES

A. Regional activities

8. The changed international environment in the post-cold-war era has accorded regional approaches a prominent role in international relations. The pursuit of regional solutions to regional problems is being actively encouraged by the international community. The Centre for Disarmament Affairs is promoting this approach through organizing, in cooperation with individual Governments, regional conferences, meetings and seminars to facilitate an exchange of ideas and information between governmental and non-governmental sectors, and between governmental and other experts. To reflect this increased emphasis on regional approaches, all such regional activities have been undertaken through the regional centres (see A/49/389).

B. Information and education activities

9. Information and education activities include the preparation and dissemination of a variety of publications, intended mainly for professionals and non-governmental organizations active in the field, as well as direct interaction with non-governmental organizations, the mass media and research and academic institutions.

10. The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, a reference book covering the deliberations of the disarmament machinery of the United Nations, the work of the Conference on Disarmament and developments in various regions, is the main publication of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs. As a supplement to the Yearbook, the Centre publishes the Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, a compilation of the texts of relevant treaties and data on their status with respect to adherence. It also publishes the periodic review Disarmament, Topical Papers, the Study Series and the Disarmament Newsletter. In addition, the Centre produces ad hoc publications as the need arises. In preparing its publications, the Centre has been emphasizing the areas of growing concern to Member States noted in section II above. The Centre has increasingly drawn upon the academic and research communities for articles for the periodic review and for papers at regional conferences, which are later published as Topical Papers.

11. During the period under review, the Centre issued and distributed the following publications:

(a) The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. 18 (1993);

(b) Disarmament: A Periodic Review by the United Nations (three issues);

(c) Disarmament Study Series (one issue);

(d) Topical Papers (three issues);

(e) Disarmament Newsletter (two issues);

(f) Disarmament Agenda of the International Community in 1994 and Beyond.

12. In the forthcoming months and in 1995, the Centre for Disarmament Affairs will continue to disseminate disarmament information materials, possibly on a reduced scale.

13. During the period under review, the Centre for Disarmament Affairs continued its cooperation with the International Association of University Presidents in a joint project to develop prototype courses in arms control, disarmament and security for use at the undergraduate level and in professional schools world wide. The project is now in its final stage, in which prototype courses that have been developed are being used and tested in various parts of the world at both the undergraduate and professional levels. It is expected that the results of the tests will be reviewed by a commission of the project this autumn in New York. One major activity of the project consists of an annual international training seminar in arms control, held at Juniata College in Pennsylvania under the auspices of the Baker Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies and the Centre for Disarmament Affairs. The seminar is designed to train arms control scholars in developing countries with the hope that they, in turn, will use what they have learned to influence their political and military leaders and to train other scholars in the field in their own countries. The seminar is being offered to scholars from Africa this autumn. Last year's scholars were from Central America.

14. The Centre for Disarmament Affairs has continued to carry out speaking engagements for groups visiting the United Nations in both New York and Geneva. Some of those groups included members of parliament and elected representatives from Member States, religious groups, university, college and secondary-level students, educators and representatives of national and international non-governmental organizations. Staff continued to attend and participate in events organized by non-governmental organizations and to be available for lectures at various universities.

15. The production of a 60-minute television documentary on the subject of chemical weapons and warfare has been completed by the Japanese television corporation, NHK Creative, in cooperation with the Centre for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information. The documentary is being distributed to United Nations information centres and field offices.

C. Training activities

16. Training for young diplomats within the framework of the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme involves some 30 fellows selected primarily from developing countries. The programme, which lasts 12 weeks, comprises a series of lectures and attendance at meetings of the Conference on Disarmament, the First Committee of the General Assembly and visits to various host countries. Lectures during 1994 dealt with such topics as regional approaches to disarmament, non-proliferation, transparency, international humanitarian law in armed conflicts, and non-military threats to security. Further information on the activities of this programme is provided in the relevant report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its current session (A/49/___).

17. Training is also provided to graduate students through the internship programme of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs. This activity is organized in cooperation with the United Nations ad hoc internship programme to introduce graduate students to the work of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. Students are given on-the-job training and the opportunity to follow deliberations of disarmament bodies at Headquarters such as the First Committee and the Disarmament Commission. During the period under review, the Centre provided such training to 12 graduate students from various geographical regions.

D. Special events

18. In New York, Disarmament Week was observed by the First Committee at its 15th meeting, on 29 October 1993 (see A/C.1/48/SR.15), at which statements were made by the Chairman of the First Committee, the President of the General Assembly and the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

19. Another feature of the Week was a symposium on the theme of responding to new realities in disarmament, held from 26 to 27 October in New York. It was organized by the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Disarmament in New York and co-sponsored by the Centre for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information.

20. Similar events are being planned to commemorate Disarmament Week in 1994.

21. Within its mandate to facilitate exchanges of views and information between governmental and non-governmental sectors, the Centre for Disarmament Affairs, during the session of the Disarmament Commission, gave substantive and practical support to a panel discussion sponsored by non-governmental organizations on the theme of assuring the success of the non-proliferation treaty extension conference.

E. Activities of the Department of Public Information

22. In accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with the Centre for Disarmament Affairs, the Department of Public Information has continued to

publicize United Nations activities in the field of arms limitation and disarmament and to help promote the objectives of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme.

23. United Nations radio and television gave wide coverage, in various languages, to disarmament and related issues, including coverage of the work of the General Assembly and the First Committee and events during Disarmament Week. In May 1994, the Department of Public Information produced a video documentary entitled "Enough is Enough", focusing on disarmament in the post-cold-war era. Press releases issued by the Department also disseminated information regarding the work of the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament.

24. Through its regular publications, the UN Chronicle, the Yearbook of the United Nations, Basic Facts about the United Nations, United Nations in Brief and its 1994 edition of Everyone's United Nations, the Department of Public Information has routinely provided information on disarmament. In cooperation with the Centre for Disarmament Affairs, the pamphlet "Chemical Weapons Convention: Questions and Answers" was also produced and disseminated.

25. The Department's information activities relating to disarmament include distributing, lending and screening films and videos, answering public inquiries and arranging briefings for non-governmental organizations and other groups. As mentioned above, a symposium, organized by the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Disarmament and co-sponsored by the Centre for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information, was held at Headquarters in connection with the observance of Disarmament Week. Similar events are being planned to commemorate Disarmament Week in 1994.

26. The United Nations Information Centres conducted a range of programmes to promote public awareness of the work of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, especially during Disarmament Week but also at other times of the year. They distributed United Nations radio programmes on disarmament, screened or loaned relevant films and videos and gave added exposure to publications of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs. In addition, they cooperated with foreign ministries, academic institutions and national non-governmental organizations in organizing seminars and briefings on disarmament issues.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

27. Voluntary contributions remain the primary source of financing for the Centre's activities to implement the Programme. On 29 October 1993, the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/53 D of 9 December 1992, convened the Eleventh United Nations Pledging Conference for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme as an opportunity for Member States to provide financial support to the various activities of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

28. The Conference was attended by 49 delegations, 23 of which made statements. In the course of the Conference, 19 States announced their pledges, all in

convertible currency. A total of $93,270 was pledged to the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme.

29. Pledges were also made to the regional centres as follows: $36,430 to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa; $58,638 to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific; and $30,757 to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. A total of $519,782 was pledged to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

30. In addition to the pledges made at the Pledging Conference, contributions were made by Member States to the Trust Fund up to 30 June 1994 amounting to $27,063 (see also A/CONF.170/2).

31. Arrangements are being made to hold a Twelfth Pledging Conference, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/76 D of 16 December 1993. It will be convened by the Secretary-General during Disarmament Week 1994.

32. For the implementation of the July 1993 to June 1994 programme of activities, the Trust Fund was charged $158,069 in convertible currency and $1,977 in non-convertible currency. The available balance (excluding unpaid pledges) that remained in the Trust Fund as at 30 June 1994 amounted to $292,345 in convertible and $13,300 in non-convertible currencies (at official rates as at 30 June 1994).

33. Any remaining funds will be used for the implementation of the proposed 1995 programme of activities. Use of non-convertible resources remaining in the Trust Fund will be determined in consultation with donor countries at a later stage.

ANNEX

Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme (formerly the Trust Fund for the World Disarmament Campaign): summary status as at 30 June 1994

(United States dollars)

		Convertible	Non-convertible	Total
I.	Income			
	1982-June 1993			
	Pledges by Member States	2 155 972	4 422 437	6 578 409
	Contributions by private sources	186 121	-	186 121
	Interest income	241 466	3 522	244 988
	Miscellaneous income	4 501	-	4 501
	Subtotal	2 588 060	4 425 959	7 014 019
	July 1993-June 1994			
	Pledges by Member States	32 263	-	32 263
	Contributions by private sources	25 000	-	25 000
	Interest income	5 784	260	6 044
	Miscellaneous income	7 928	-	7 928
	Subtotal	70 975	260	71 235
	Total income (1982-1994)	2 659 035	4 426 219	7 085 254
II.	Expenditure			
	1982-June 1993	1 859 959	2 627 024	4 486 983
	July 1993-June 1994	158 069	1 977	160 046
	Total expenditure (1982-1994)	2 018 028	2 629 001	4 647 029
III.	Status as at 30 June 1994			
	Pledges and contributions			
	Total pledges and contributions (1982-1994)	2 659 035	4 426 219	7 085 254
	Less: Deposited pledges/contributions	2 431 324	3 021 947	5 453 271
	Less: Net loss on exchange on pledges	33 122	1 404 146	1 437 268
	Outstanding pledges	194 589	126	194 715
	Deposited pledges and contributions	2 431 324	3 021 947	5 453 271
	Less: Loss on exchange on cash balance	120 951	379 646	500 597
	Less: Total expenditure (1982-1994)	2 018 028	2 629 001	4 647 029
	Balance, excluding unpaid pledges, 30 June 1994	292 345	13 300	305 645